

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 170394
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:BH

APPROVED BY NEA:HHAUNDERS

S/S-O:LFLEISCHER

-----034075 061736Z /44

Z 061719Z JUL 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS FLASH

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 170394

EXDIS - JERUSALEM FOR AMB. LEWIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1,2

TAGS: PEPR, PINT, LE, SY

SUBJECT:LEBANON: YOUR DEMARCHE TO SYRIANS

REF: (A) DAMASCUS 3844, (B) STATE 170073,
(C) DRAPER/PELLETREAU TELECON

1. CONFIRMING TELECON, YOU SHOULD SEEK EARLIEST POSSIBLE
APPOINTMENT TODAY WITH KHADDAM OR, IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE,
WITH HIS DEPUTY. NEWSOM WILL MAKE PRESENTATION TO SYRIAN
AMBASSADOR QABBANI IN MID-AFTERNOON.

2. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT YOUR APPROACH EVOKE
ATMOSPHERE OF OUR WANTING TO WORK WITH SYRIANS IN ACHIEV-
ING COMMON OBJECTIVE AND AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING. SYRIA
IS AWARE WE HAVE SUPPORTED AND WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT

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THEIR PRIMARY OBJECTIVES IN LEBANON AS WE UNDERSTAND THEM,
I.E. PRESERVATION OF SECURITY, SUPPORT FOR CENTRAL GOVERN-
MENT, FORESTALLING PARTITION, AND PREVENTING AN ESCALATION
OF EVENTS IN LEBANON FROM LEADING TO WIDER WAR. LEAVE IT
TO YOU TO COUCH APPROACH IN BEST WAY. WE WANT POSITIVE
SYRIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD OUR EFFORTS; WE ALSO WANT SYRIA TO
STOP FIGHTING.

3. BASIC POINT IS THAT WE ARE CONCERNED TO STOP THE DYING IN BEIRUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BOTH FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS AND TO AVOID FURTHER ESCALATION OF THE FIGHTING. IN THIS LATTER CONTEXT, WE WANT SYRIANS TO KNOW WE ARE URGING RESTRAINT IN ISRAEL, BUT WE MUST REPORT THAT PRESSURE IS MOUNTING IN ISRAEL FOR SOME ACTION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING SYRIAN VIEWS.

4. WE LEAVE IT TO YOU AS TO WHEN IN YOUR PRESENTATION YOU SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINT, PERHAPS BEFORE OR AFTER YOU HAVE ASCERTAINED SYRIAN PLANS AND INTENTIONS IN LIGHT OF THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. HAVING TRIED OTHER APPROACHES, THE POINT IS THAT THE U.S. PLANS TO CALL AN URGENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. THIS CALL WOULD BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF (1) THE OVERRIDING HUMANITARIAN NEED TO STOP THE KILLING IN BEIRUT, AND (2) TO DEAL WITH THE THREAT TO PEACE IN THE WIDER MIDDLE EAST AREA CAUSED BY AN ESCALATING SITUATION, WITH ALL THE ATTENDANT DANGERS OF MISCALCULATIONS AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN VARIOUS QUARTERS WHICH COULD LEAD TO BROADER HOSTILITIES OR WAR. WE HOPE WE WILL BE ABLE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH SYRIA IN ACHIEVING A CEASEFIRE. AT YOUR DISCRETION, YOU CAN ALSO SAY THAT, WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT SYRIA HAS GRAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE SADAT INITIATIVE, WE ARE ENGAGED IN A MAJOR EFFORT IN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS
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DURING WHICH THE U.S. WILL BE TAKING A MORE ACTIVE ROLE, AND WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE LEBANESE PROBLEM, IF NOT CONTAINED SATISFACTORILY, WILL INTERRUPT THIS PROCESS. DO NOT MAKE THIS POINT IF YOU SENSE IT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

5. YOU SHOULD POINT OUT FIRMLY THAT THE SITUATION MIGHT BE RETRIEVED IF THE SYRIANS WOULD UNILATERALLY OBSERVE THE STRICTEST POSSIBLE CEASEFIRE WHILE ATTEMPTING TO NEGOTIATE A MORE SATISFACTORY SITUATION, EVEN IF THE MILITIAS DO NOT OBSERVE IT SATISFACTORILY.

6. IN ELABORATING ON ISRAELI MOVES IF YOU THINK DESIRABLE-- INCLUDING THE OVERFLIGHTS AND BEN ELISSAR'S STATEMENT-- YOU CAN EXPLAIN THAT WE HAVE COUNSELLED RESTRAINT AND PATIENCE ON THE ISRAELIS FOR DAYS. CHRISTIAN APPEALS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE ISRAELIS APPARENTLY HAVE BECOME MORE IMPASSIONED. WEIZMAN AND BEGIN HAVE BEEN IN FREQUENT TOUCH WITH AMB. LEWIS, AND HAVE SHOWN APPREHENSION THAT SYRIAN INTENDS TO MASSACRE THE CHRISTIANS. THE FIGHTING IN BEIRUT IS ALSO BECOMING AN ISSUE IN ISRAELI PUBLIC OPINION AND IN THE PRESS. THE ISRAELIS

INFORMED US, IN RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST THAT THEY

INFLUENCE THE CHRISTIANS, THAT THEY HAD URGED THAT
THE CHRISTIANS "AS FAR AS POSSIBLE SHOULD NOT PROVOKE THE
SYRIANS AND SHOULD HOLD THEIR OWN FIRE."

7. WE INTEND TO CONTINUE COUNSELLING RESTRAINT UPON THE
ISRAELIS BUT, TO BE EFFECTIVE AND CONVINCING, WE MUST
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BEST OF ALL, AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE, EVEN IF IT CAN BE
OBSERVED ONLY BY THE SYRIANS FOR THE MOMENT.

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NOTE IN THIS CONNECTION THAT THERE ARE RUMORS AND STORIES
TO THE EFFECT THAT SYRIA HAS IMPOSED CERTAIN DEMANDS ON
SARKIS AND HIS GOVERNMENT WHICH SOME BELIEVE SARKIS
WOULD BE UNABLE TO CARRY OUT. ASK WHETHER SYRIA HAS SET
CONDITIONS FOR A CEASEFIRE AND WHAT THEY ARE.

9. WHILE IN NO WAY EASING THE BASIC THRUST OF YOUR
DEMARCHE, AS OUTLINED ABOVE, YOU CAN IN YOUR DISCUSSION
CAST YOUR PRESENTATION WITHIN THE SPIRIT OF THE APPROACH
DESCRIBED STATE 170073 AND DRAW ON IT AS YOU SEE FIT TO
ILLUSTRATE PRELIMINARY U.S. THINKING AS OF YESTERDAY.

10. THE FOREGOING APPROACH WILL BE FOLLOWED BY NEWSOM
LATER TODAY.

11. YOU SHOULD NOT WAIT FOR SEPTTEL RE MIDDLE EAST PEACE
NEGOTIATIONS, BUT MAKE THIS THE SUBJECT OF A LATER
MEETING.

12. BY IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE WE MEAN TODAY, BEFORE NIGHT-
FALL.
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PAGE 01 STATE 170394
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY IO/UNA:AFHOLLOWAY

S/S-O:KDROBINSON

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O 070045Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0000

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 170394

EXDIS, GENEVA FOR AMB YOUNG

FOL RPT STATE 170394 ACTION DAMASCUS JERUSALEM BEIRUT
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VANCE

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, INSTRUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE170394
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDRAPER:BH
Enclosure: X1 IS A DC TOO
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780277-0825
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Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 DAMASCUS 3844, 78 STATE 170073
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2098025
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANON: YOUR DEMARCHE TO SYRIANS
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, LE, SY, US
To: DAMASCUS JERUSALEM MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b780e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014